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LETTER DATED 25 JUNE 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to submit, enclosed herewith, a letter by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Franjo Tudjman, addressed to you.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 25 June 1993 from the President of the Republic of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Croatia considers that a limited extension of UNPROFOR's present mandate, pursuant to the request of your Special Representative made in accordance with paragraph 6 of your report dated 24 June 1993 (S/25993), is only partially acceptable, i.e. for the period of one month. This extension is to be viewed as a trial period in which the Serbian side (their local leaders) should start seriously cooperating with Croatian authorities in the implementation of the United Nations peace plan (Vance plan) and relevant Security Council resolutions. If local Serbs sign, within that period, the binding agreement on the implementation of the Vance plan, the Republic of Croatia will be willing to consider the extension of the mandate for a period of three to six months. Without the signed and binding agreement and significant progress in the implementation of the Vance plan, the extension of the UNPROFOR mandate would only serve the dilatory tactics of the Serbian local leaders and reinforcement of the status quo.

I am fully aware of the difficulties that you and the Security Council have in the realization of the tasks given to UNPROFOR. However, the Republic of Croatia sees no reason for the continued presence of UNPROFOR on her territory unless its tasks, defined in resolutions already adopted by the Security Council, are not being performed. Our decision, which was already communicated to your Special Representative yesterday, to agree to the extension of UNPROFOR's mandate for a period of one month, has been made in the hope that it will benefit the current peace process which is being conducted under the auspices of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, especially concerning its attempts to find a durable and just political solution for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We believe that the one-month extension of the UNPROFOR mandate will be enough to "provide a breathing-space for the continued efforts of the peacemakers", as you stated in your aforesaid report.

As you correctly stated in your latest reports (S/25777 and S/25993), the local Serb authorities in the UNPAs are not cooperating with the Croatian Government nor with the international community, and they are openly resisting the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. However, the Republic of Croatia will try to continue negotiations with the local Serbian population in a sincere effort to find a solution for the benefit of all sides. But Croatia cannot allow an indefinite prolongation of the status quo that is seriously undermining not only the relevance of the Security Council resolutions, but which is also threatening the territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia.

In making the decision to accept an extension of UNPROFOR's mandate by only one month, Croatia has taken into account the following important facts. Croatia can no longer tolerate the de facto separation of her territory into several parts with extremely difficult communications among them. Today the eastern part of Croatia can hardly be reached from the western part because of the existence of UNPA Sector West, and the south of Croatia is actually separated from the north by UNPA sectors North and South. The electrical power

system cannot supply the south of Croatia from the north because the high-voltage links have been cut. The pipeline from Rijeka to central Croatia, which is of vital importance not only for Croatia but also for several Central European States (as witnessed by the request of the Central European Initiative to the United Nations), is out of operation. The railway link between Split and Zagreb, via Knin, to Europe has been disrupted for already two years. For this reason the economic hardship threatens to disrupt the entire social life in Croatia with unforeseen consequences. The heavy burden of refugees and displaced persons, for whom Croatia is obliged to care, is further seriously aggravating the already difficult economic situation. In view of all this our limited armed action in the area of Maslenica and the Peruča Dam can be easily explained and justified.

To all these facts some other of equal, if not greater, significance can be added. Daily Serbian attacks on Croatian cities, which are continuing in spite of the UNPROFOR presence and signed cease-fire agreement, are seriously disrupting what has been left of the normal life. The Serbian "authorities" are misusing UNPROFOR's unpreparedness and reluctance to enforce the Security Council resolution, and are trying through a self-proclaimed and illegal "referendum" to create a Serbian "state" within the internationally recognized borders of the sovereign Republic of Croatia. All this is making the present situation for Croatia intolerable.

The Republic of Croatia would welcome the active role of UNPROFOR in implementing the Security Council resolution as already specified in my letter to you dated 4 June 1993 (S/25885). If, according to our present proposal, progress is made during this one month period, the Republic of Croatia would be willing to accept the prolongation of UNPROFOR's role in Croatia under a new mandate. However, we emphasize once more that any agreement on the new mandate could be concluded only between the Republic of Croatia and the United Nations, and be separated from the UNPROFOR mandates in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. Besides that, the new mandate must give UNPROFOR the authority and instructions to enforce and implement all of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council in accordance with a specific timetable.

I sincerely hope that the Security Council will accept our present proposal and I can assure you that the Republic of Croatia shall be always prepared to cooperate fully and sincerely with the United Nations. We are prepared to extend our logistic support and put at the disposal of UNPROFOR our facilities in case the mandates for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia are separated from the one for Croatia.

(Signed) Franjo TUDJMAN
President of the
Republic of Croatia